

Melissa Van Dyke Biography



Melissa Van Dyke, LCSW is Associate Director of the National Implementation Research Network (NIRN), Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Melissa obtained her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Oregon and a Master of Social Work from the University of Michigan, with a focus on Interpersonal Practice and Policy. Melissa is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Applied Anthropology with a focus on organisations and systems.

Before joining the NIRN team, Melissa worked in state government in the United States with families and youth in child welfare, children's mental health, and the juvenile justice systems. Along with her years in direct service, Melissa worked in professional development (training) and as Deputy Superintendent of a large juvenile correctional facility and was actively involved in various organisational and statewide programme implementation and system improvement initiatives.

Melissa has also worked with community and state initiatives to improve mental health and child welfare service systems. Her recent projects include working with state and federal initiatives related to scaling up evidence-based practices in education (www.scalingup.org), evidence-based child abuse prevention programs and early childhood home visitation, leadership development in Child Welfare, and broad reform efforts in early childhood systems and criminal justice systems.

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